

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 04701 141610Z

44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 OMB-01 CIEP-03 DRC-01 SAM-01

/123 W

----- 067176

R 132239Z AUG 74

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1483

INFO GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 4701

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PN, PFOR

SUBJ: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND CHANGE IN PRESIDENCY

SUMMARY: SECRETARY KISSINGER'S CABLE TO FOREIGN MINISTER TACK OF AUGUST 9 HAD AN IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE IMPACT IN PANAMA AND, ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS, HAS SERVED TO DISPEL DOUBTS WHICH HAD ARisen IN PANAMA AS RESULT OF CHANGE IN U S PRESIDENCY. FULL TEXT OF "DEAR TONY" MESSAGE WAS PUBLISHED IN SPANISH LANGUAGE PRESS AUGUST 10 USING FAMILIAR "TU" FORM AND HAS BEEN DESCRIBED BY EDITORIALS AS "UNEQUIVOCABLE PROOF" OF SPIRIT WHICH ANIMATES DR. KISSINGER. OVERALL, CHANGE IN PRESIDENCY IS VIEWED BY PANAMIAN PRESS TO DATE AS IMPROVING PROSPECTS FOR TREATY NEGOTIATIONS BECAUSE NEW PRESIDENT WOULD BE STRONGER VIS-A-VIS U S SENATE. END SUMMARY.

1. THE COMBINATION OF PRESIDENT FORD'S STATEMENT OF INTENTION TO STRENGTHEN "NEW DIALOGUE" AND SECRETARY KISSINGER'S AUGUST 9 CABLE TO FOREIGN MINISTER TACK ASSURING THAT CHANGE IN U S PRESIDENCY WOULD NOT AFFECT CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS IN ANY WAY HAS HAD IMMEDIATE FAVORABLE IMPACT IN PANAMA. FULL TEXT OF SECRETARY'S CABLE WAS PUBLISHED IN PRESS AUGUST 10 UNDER CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 04701 141610Z

FEATURE HEADLINES. INDEPENDENT LA ESTRELLA COMMENTARY ACCOMPANY-

ING TEXT OF MESSAGE INDICATED IT HAD "DSPELLED ANY FEARS THAT MIGHT HAVE ARISEN AMONG PANAMANIANS THAT THE WHITE HOUSE CHANGE WOULD SET BACK THE TREATY NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH HAVE GAINED CONSIDERABLE IMPETUS SINCE KISSINGER BECAME SECRETARY OF STATE." GOP-CONGROLLED MATUTINO FEATURE ARTICLE ON KISSINGER CABLE COMMENTED THAT PRESIDENT NIXON WAS INSTIGATOR OF GREAT FEATS IN FOREIGN POLICY AND CANAL AGREEMENT WITH PANAMA WAS ONE OF HIS OBJECTIVES TO CULMINATE ERA OF DETENTE "SO BRILLIANTLY ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS SECRETARY OF STATE."

2. IMPACT OF CHANGE IN PRESIDENCY AND SIGNIFICANCE OF SECRETARY'S CABLE CONTINUE RECEIVING PROMINENT ATTENTION IN PANAMANIAN PRESS. FEATURE EDITORIAL IN LA ESTRELLA SUNDAY, AUGUST 11 POINTED OUT THAT ALTHOUGH PRESIDENT NIXON AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WERE SINCERELY INTERESTED IN ACHIEVING AGREEMENT ON NEW CANAL TREATY, IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN IMPOSSIBLE TO ACCOMPLISH THIS BECAUSE OF EX-PRESIDENT'S WEAK POSITION VIS-A-VIS U S SENATE; HOWEVER, IN LA ESTRELLA'S VIEW, WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S ACCESSION COUPLED WITH HIS DECISION TO CONTINUE WITH KISSINGER AS SECRETARY OF STATE, THE SITUATION HAD UNDERGONE FAVORABLE CHANGE "WHICH PERMITS US TO AWAIT WITH CONFIDENCE A NEW AND SATISFACTORY RESULT OF NEGOTIATIONS..." ESPECIALLY PROMISING WAS SECRETARY'S "EFFUSIVE AND WARM MESSAGE" WHICH INFORMED PANAMANIAN LEADERS THAT NEW CANAL TRATY REMAINS ONE OF HIGHEST U S PRIORITIES.

3. SIMILARLY POSITIVE ARTICLES APPEARED IN SUNDAY EDITION OF GOP-CONTROLLED EL PANAMA AMERICA AND IN FEATURE EDITORIAL IN GOP-TABLOID CRITICA AUGUST 12 UNDER TITLE "KISSINGER'S ENCOURAGING MESSAGE." FINALLY, FEATURE COVERAGE WAS GIVEN IN MATUTINO AUGUST 13 TO PRESIDENT FORD'S STATMENT OF INTENTION TO CONTINUE AND STRENGTHEN "NEW DIALOGUE." THRUST OF ALL PRESS COVERAGE IS THAT FORD-KISSINGER COMBINATION IMPROVES CHANCES FOR CANAL TREATY APPROVAL BY SENATE.

4. CONCERNING NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, LATEST ROUND OF BUNKER-TACK TALKS RECEIVED LITTLE COVERAGE. AMBASSADOR BUNKER'S ARRIVAL LAST WEEK WAS PRECEDED BY SHORT COLUMN IN PRESS ANNOUNCING HIS ARRIVAL, AND AUGUST 13 MATUTINO HAD FRONT PAGE ARTICLE REPORTING "FIFTH STAGE" OF NEGOTIATIONS HAD BEEN COMPLETED WITH DEPARTURE OF BUNKER ON PREVIOUS DAY. TACK WAS CITED
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 PANAMA 04701 141610Z

AS SAYING, NEGOTIATIONS WERE NEARING "THEIR MIDDLE POINT." REPORT ALLEGED BOTH FUNCTIONARIES - BUNKER AND TACK - EXPRESSED HOPE NEGOTIATIONS WOULD BE CONCLUDED BY YEAR'S END.

5. COMMENT. IMPACT ON CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS OF CHANGE IN U S PRESIDENCY APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN POSITIVE FOR REASON THAT PANAMANIANS BELIEVE PRESIDENT FORD WILL BE IN STRONGER POSITION VIS-A-VIS SENATE THAN WAS PRESIDENT NIXON. IN ADDITION

TO NEWSPAPER COMMENT INDICATING THIS, SAME THOUGHT HAS BEEN
EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL AND OTHER PANAMANIANS
CLOSE TO GOP.
JORDEN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS, PRESIDENTIAL SUCCESSION, NEGOTIATIONS, PANAMA CANAL TREATY, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 AUG 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: izenbei0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974PANAMA04701
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740223-0581
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740852/aaaabsef.tel
Line Count: 119
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: izenbei0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by izenbei0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANAL TREATY NEGOTIATIONS AND CHANGE IN PRESIDENCY SUMMARY: SECREATRY KISSINGER'S CABLE TO FOREIGN MINISTER TACK
TAGS: PFOR, PN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005